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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

GREAT AND GOOD MEN.

DESIGNED FOR THE

AMUSEMENT AND INSTRUCTION

OF

YOUNG PERSONS.

SECOND EDITION.

BOSTON.

PUTNAM & HUNT, 41, WASHINGTON STREET.

1829.

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DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS—to wit.

District Clerk's Office.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on the ninth day of August, A. D. 1828, in the fifty third year of the independence of the United States of America, **PUTNAM & HUNT** of the said district, have deposited in this Office the title of a Book the right whereof they claim as Proprietors in the words following, to wit :

“Biographical Sketches of Great and Good Men, designed for the amusement and instruction of young persons.”

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JOHN W. DAVIS,

Clerk of the District of Massachusetts.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

The utility of well-written biography, especially when employed in describing the character of great and good men is universally acknowledged. Perhaps no species of literature has so powerful and beneficial effect on the mind and morals of the young. This consideration has induced the publishers of the *Juvenile Miscellany*, to select from that work, the following sketches of men, eminent for their virtues, talents and usefulness. These Biographical "Sketches," were prepared by the Editor of the *Miscellany*, and the circumstance will be a sufficient recommendation of their excellence, and their tendency to those who are familiar with the writings of that amiable and gifted lady. They are presented to the youthful reader with the hope that he may be induced by exhibitions of goodness to strive to be good, and by examples of eminence attained by virtuous exertion prudence and industry, to follow those paths which, in our republic surely lead to honorable independence, if not enviable distinction.

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SKETCHES.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

Few individuals have been as useful to mankind as Benjamin Franklin; and very few even in this happy land where the path to honorable distinction is ever open to talents industry and integrity, have experienced a greater reverse of fortune. In very early life, he served as apprentice to a tallow chandler; but he soon found that cutting wicks, and filling moulds would never satisfy his strong and inquisitive mind. He had a great predilection for a sailor's life. He was eager to see mankind under all the variety of appearances, which manners, habits and costume have given them. A spirit of enterprise was the first trait of character which developed itself very strongly. He read with eager-

ness accounts of cabin-boys, who had become admirals ; of chimney sweepers converted into mayors of London ; of scholars, poor and secluded in early-life, whose names had gone down to posterity ; followed by a long wake of glory ; and of rustic clerks, who by some fortunate venture at sea, had amassed a splendid fortune. Had his father encouraged his propensity for a sea-faring life he probably would have been an industrious sailor, a skilful pilot, and an economical and judicious captain. Luckily for him, however, Mr. Franklin thought best to thwart his boyish inclinations ; and he lived to show all these qualities in the character of a philosopher and statesman.

The avidity with which he read all the books that came in his way, induced his father to bind him as apprentice to an elder son, who was then a printer in Boston. In this trade he made rapid proficiency, and was soon very useful to his brother ; unfortunately, however they could not agree together. Benjamin had published some verses, &c. in his brother's newspaper, which met with considerable praise. This flattered his youthful vanity ;

and according to his own account of their disagreement, he was as much to blame for forwardness and self-importance, as his brother was for severity. Whatever might be the causes of complaint, they became so irksome to him, that he absconded from Boston, and offered himself as journeyman-printer in Philadelphia. The account of his first visit to that city, affords a striking contrast to his success in after life. “I was,” says he, “in my working dress, which was covered with dirt ; and my pockets were stuffed with shirts and stockings.” Fatigued and hungry, with very little money in his purse, he roamed along the streets, until he met a child with a loaf of bread. He eagerly inquired where it was bought ; and having the baker pointed out to him, he purchased three large rolls which he devoured as he walked along through the principal streets. After this refreshment he followed a crowd of well dressed people, who were all going the same way, and very soon found himself in the interior of a Quaker meeting-house. It happened to be one of the Friends’ *silent* meetings ; and Mr. Franklin soon fell into a profound sleep. Such was

his first introduction to the city of Philadelphia ; where his shrewdness, and talent for business, soon made him a distinguished citizen. The great cause of Dr. Franklin's rise in the world, was his habits of close observation upon men and things. His attention was wide awake, always interested in what was around him. This led him to invent his metallic kite, with silken cords, to draw lightning down from the heavens ; this led him to apply his knowledge to a practical use, by the introduction of lightning rods ; and to this we owe the sententious wisdom, which every where pervades his writings. Perhaps economy was a still more striking trait of his character than shrewd discrimination. Every child has read the story of the dear-bought whistle ; and most children have probably figured to themselves how Benjamin Franklin looked, when he went home piping in the merriment of his heart, and thinking how his brothers and sisters would envy him the noisy plaything,—and then his look of disappointment and vexation, when every one in the house laughed at his purchase, and told him he had paid "*too dear for his whistle.*" This

lesson seems to have made a deep impression upon him; for economy was the spirit breathed from all his actions, and all his writings. He was frugal in his own expenses; frugal in his system of politics; and frugal even in his words. Thus, instead of saying that it is difficult for a man deeply in debt to be independent in his integrity, and to void flattering the rich,—he says with peculiar brevity, “it is hard for an empty bag to stand upright.” Yet his economy seems to have no tinge of meanness. He was always willing to lend money to those who were entering life destitute; and when these people were able and willing to pay him, he would often say, “Lend it to the first poor tradesman you find, who is industrious and honest; and tell him to lend it to another as soon as he is able to spare it. In this way, with a small sum of money, I shall do good to the end of time.”

This extraordinary man was born in Boston in a house which formerly stood where the Commission Ware House, in Milk street now stands; and he always owed his thirst for knowledge entirely to the good education he received from the free grammar schools, of

that intelligent city. It was Doctor Franklin's misfortune, to have associated in early life, with some unprincipled characters, and to have read pernicious books. It is impossible to go through the temptations of life, with any degree of safety, without the protection of religious principle. Hence, we find this learned man bitterly regretting, in his old age, the errors of his misguided youth. Let this teach the young that they cannot be too careful in the choice of their companions, and their books. And, if the laugh of the gay and fashionable, should ever make industry and economy appear like contemptible virtues, let them remember that Benjamin Franklin, a poor, hard-working mechanic, became, by means of these very virtues, a philosopher, whose discoveries were useful and celebrated throughout Europe. If they grow weary of application, and despise frugality ; let them think of a dirty, printer boy, eating his roll of dry bread, in the streets of Philadelphia, afterwards ambassador to the Court of France ; welcomed to the most splendid of Parisian saloons ; and his grey hairs crowned with a wreath of laurel, by the young and fair of that enthusiastic nation.

CAPT. JOHN SMITH.

THE adventures of this singular man are so various, and so very extraordinary, that the detail of them seems more like romance than true history. He was born in Lincolnshire, England, and was left an orphan at an early age. His love of adventure displayed itself, while he was yet a school boy. He sold his satchel, books and clothes, and went over to France, without the knowledge of his guardians. Afterward, he served as a soldier in the low countries, for several years. At the end of his campaign, he returned to England, where he recovered a small portion of the estate left him by his deceased father. This money enabled him to resume his travels under more favorable auspices, at the age of seventeen. He again went to France, and embarked at Marseilles, with some Roman Catholic Pilgrims, bound to Italy. During this voyage a violent tempest threatened destruction to the vessel,—and the superstitious Catholics, thinking it was because Smith was a heretic, did

not hesitate to throw him directly into the sea. He saved himself by his great expertness in swimming; and soon after went on board another vessel, bound to Alexandria, where he entered into the service of the Emperor of Austria, against the Turks. His bravery, and great ingenuity in all the stratagems of war, soon made him famous, and obtained for him the command of two hundred and fifty horsemen. At the siege of Regal, the Ottomans sent a challenge, purporting that Lord Turbisha, to amuse the ladies, would fight with any captain among the Austrian troops. Smith accepted the challenge. Flags of truce were exchanged between the two armies; and crowds of fair dames, and fearless men, assembled to witness the combat. Lord Turbisha entered the field well mounted and armed. On his shoulders were fixed two large wings, made of eagle's feathers, set in silver and richly ornamented with gold and precious stones. A Janizary bore his lance before him, and another followed, leading a horse superbly caparisoned. Smith came upon the ground with less parade. A flourish of trump-

ets preceded him, and his lance was supported by a single page.

The Turk fell at the first charge ; and Smith returned to his army in triumph. This so enraged one of the friends of the slain, that he sent a challenge to Smith, offering him his head, his horse and his armour if he dared come and take them.

The challenge was accepted, and the combatants came upon the ground with nearly the same ceremony and splendor. Their lances broke at the first charge, without doing injury to either ; but at the second onset, the Turk was wounded and thrown from his horse, and killed.

The Christian army were at this time anxious to finish some fortifications, and were very willing to amuse their enemies in this way ; they, therefore, persuaded Captain Smith to send a challenge in his turn, offering his head in pay for the two he had won, to any one who had skill and strength enough to take it. The offer was accepted, and a third Turk, tried his fortune with the bold adventurer. This time, Captain Smith was nearly unhorsed but by his dexterity and judgment he recover-

ed himself, and soon returned to the camp victorious. These warlike deeds met with much applause ; and the prince gave him a coat of arms, signed with the royal seal, representing three Turk's heads on a white field. Not long after this, Captain Smith was left wounded on the field of battle,—was taken prisoner by the Turks,—and sent as a slave to a noble lady in the interior of the country. He could speak Italian well, and his fair mistress was very fond of that language. She listened to accounts of his bravery, his adventures, and his misfortunes, with deepening interest ; and finally sent him to her brother, a powerful Bashaw, with a request that he should be treated with much kindness. The proud officer was angry that her sister should trouble herself about a vile European slave,—and instead of attending to her request, he caused him to be loaded with irons, and abused in the most shameful manner. During the long and tedious period of his slavery, he suffered as much as it is possible for a man to endure ; but at length he killed his tyrannical master, and with great peril escaped through the deserts into Russia. His romantic genius

would not long allow him to remain easy. He could not be happy unless he was engaged in daring and adventurous actions. He no sooner heard of an expedition to Virginia, under the command of Christopher Newport, than he resolved to join it. He arrived in this country with the first emigrants, who settled in Jamestown, April 26, 1607. It is said this infant settlement must have perished had it not been for the courage and ingenuity of Captain Smith. Once they were all nearly dying with hunger, and the savages utterly refused to sell them any food. In this extremity Smith stole the Indian idol, Okee, which was made of skins stuffed with moss and would not return it, until the Indians had sold them as much corn as they wanted. The colony was once in imminent danger of losing their brave and intelligent friend. While exploring the source of the Chickahominy, he imprudently left his companions, and while alone, was seen and pursued by a party of savages. He retreated fighting, killed three Indians with his own hand, and probably would have gained his boat in safety, had he not, accidentally plunged into a miry hole from which he could not

extricate himself. By this accident, he was taken prisoner ; and the Indians would have tortured him, and put him to death, according to their cruel customs, had not his ever ready wit come to his aid. He showed them a small ivory compass which he had with him, and by signs, explained many wonderful things to them, till his enemies were inspired with a most profound respect, and resolved not to kill the extraordinary man without consulting their chief. He was, accordingly, brought into the presence of the Emperor Powhatan ; who received him in a robe of racoon skins, and seated on a kind of throne, with two beautiful young daughters at his side. After a long consultation he was condemned to die. Two large stones were brought, his head laid upon one of them, and the war clubs raised to strike the deadly blow. At this moment, Pocahontas, the king's favourite daughter, sprang forward, threw herself between him and the executioners, and by her entreaties, saved his life. Powhatan promised him that he should return to Jamestown, if the English would give him a certain quantity of ammunition and trinkets.



Smith agreed to obtain them, provided a messenger would carry a leaf to his companions. On this leaf he briefly stated what must be sent. The Emperor had never heard of writing ;— he laughed at the idea that a leaf could speak, and regarded the whole as an imposition, on the part of the prisoner. When, however, the messenger returned with the promised ransom, he regarded Smith as nothing less than a wizard, and gladly allowed him to depart. It seemed to be the fate of this singular man, to excite a powerful interest, wherever he went. Pocahontas had such a deep attachment for him, that in 1609, when only fourteen years old, she stole away from her tribe, and during a most dreary night walked to Jamestown, to tell him, that her father had formed the design of cutting off the whole English settlement. Thus she a second time, saved his life at the hazard of her own. This charming Indian girl, did not meet with all the gratitude she deserved. Before 1612, Captain Smith received a wound which made it necessary for him to go to England, for surgical aid ; and after his departure a copper-kettle was offered to any Indian, who

would bring Pocahontas to the English settlement. She was accordingly, stolen from her father, and carried prisoner to Jamestown. Powhatan offered five hundred bushels of corn, as a ransom for his darling child. Before the negotiation was finished, an Englishman of good character by the name of Thomas Rolfe, became attached to Pocahontas, and they were soon after married with the Emperor's consent. This event secured peace to the English, for many years. The Indian bride became a Christian, and was baptised. In 1616, she went to England, with her husband,—was introduced at court,—and received great attention. King James is said to have been very indignant, that any one of his subjects should have dared to marry a princess; but Captain Smith has been accused, perhaps falsely, of being sufficiently cold and selfish, to blush for his acquaintance with the generous North American Savage. Pocahontas never returned to her native country. She died at Gravesend, in 1617, just as she was about to embark for America. She left one son, Thomas Rolfe; and from his daughter, are descended several people of high rank in Vir-

ginia ; among them, is the celebrated John Randolph. Smith had many adventures, after his wound obliged him to leave Jamestown. He visited this country again ; made a voyage to the Summer Isles ; fought with pirates ; joined the French against the Spaniards ; and was adrift, in a little boat, alone, on the stormy sea, during a night so tempestuous, that thirteen French ships were wrecked, near the Isle of Re ; yet he was saved. He died in London, in 1631, in the fifty second year of his age,—after having published his singular adventures, in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. We cannot better close this account of his eventful life, than by quoting a passage from a most eloquent review. “ Smith was the pure abstraction of chivalry,—a very knight-errant, as ever perilled his life for a lady’s smile ; brave to a fault, and high minded to a miracle,—the soul of council, and a nerve of war ; a man who was engaged in more adventures than other people have read of. Tracing the Nile at one time,—coasting the Chesapeake at another ; now thrown over a heretic into the sea,—now saved by an Indian

woman from the block,—and now challenging
an Ottoman army.

“ Exceedingly well read, and profited
In strange concealments ; valient as a lion,
And wond’rous affable ; and as bountiful
As mines of India.”



GENERAL PUTNAM.

Israel Putnam, a Major General in the army of the United States, was born at Salem, Jan. 7, 1718. He seems to have been characterised by vigour, courage, and boldness, from his childhood. The earliest instance of his prowess, which is recorded, happened during his first visit to Boston, when a boy twice his size laughed at him for his awkwardness. Honest Israel bore his insults very patiently for a while ; but the lad continuing his impudence, his patience became exhausted, and he attacked, and conquered his insulter, to the great amusement of a crowd of spectators.

In 1739 he removed to Pomfret, in Connecticut. It was in this place that he performed his celebrated exploit of killing a wolf, which had long infested the neighboring country. Few men would have dared, like him, to descend, at ten o'clock at night, into a deep, narrow cave, through which he was obliged to creep on his hands and knees, and at the extremity of which, he could perceive the glaring eye-balls of the wolf. Yet with pistols in one

hand, and torch in the other he undertook the dangerous enterprise,—and his courage was rewarded by success. The wolf was shot through the head, just as she was about to spring upon her enemy,—and her mangled carcase was drawn out of the cave with Putnam, to the great exultation of his assembled neighbors. This adventure has rendered Pomfret so celebrated that travellers frequently go out of their way for the purpose of visiting Putnam's Cave.

General Putnam performed another extraordinary feat, in 1756, during the French and Indian war: Being on the Hudson in a boat, with five men, he was accidentally left alone, while his companions remained on the opposite shore. His men informed him by signals, that the savages were about to surround him. If he remained to fight with the Indians, he must certainly be killed ; if he attempted to cross to the side where his companions were he must be fully exposed to the shot of his enemies ; and if he sailed down the river, he must go over the Falls, with almost the certainty of being dashed to pieces. Putnam did not hesitate. His enemies saw he was deter-

mined to go over the falls ; and they hastened to discharge their muskets at him before he could escape. Rocks, large masses of timber, absorbing gulfs, and rapid descents, threatened him with instant destruction. However, by the exertion of incredible skill and courage, he gained the even surface of the river, which flowed at the bottom of this dreadful cascade. The Indians considered this a miracle, and supposed Putnam to be the peculiar favorite of the Great Spirit. During the French war, his life was repeatedly in imminent danger. One night, he escaped with twelve bullet holes in his blanket. In August 1756, he was sent out with several hundred men, to watch the motions of the enemy. Being ambuscaded by a party of equal numbers a general, but irregular action took place. Putnam had discharged his fusee several times, but at length it missed fire, while its muzzle was presented to the breast of a savage. The warrior with his lifted hatchet, and a tremendous war-whoop, compelled him to surrender and then bound him to a tree. In the course of the action, the parties changed their position so as to bring the tree directly be-

tween them. The balls flew by him incessantly ; many struck the tree, and some passed through his clothes. The enemy now gained possession of the ground ; but being afterward driven from the field, they carried their prisoner with them. At night he was stripped, and a fire was kindled to roast him alive ; but when he was fastened to the stake, and the flames began to rise around him a sudden shower extinguished the blaze. After a considerable pause, the fire was rekindled, and the prisoner already began to turn from side to side in agony, as the scorching heat grew more and more intense,—when Molang a French officer rushed through the Indian ranks, and forbade the cruel sacrifice.

Thus was his life again preserved in the very extremity of peril. He still continued a prisoner ; but the greatest cruelty with which the savages ventured to treat him, was to tie his feet and hands to the neighboring trees and bushes, while he slept. He used to say he often laughed, while lying in this awkward position, to think what a ludicrous subject he was for a painter to study. In the year 1759 he was exchanged through the influence of

his fellow prisoner, General Schuyler ; and when peace took place, he returned to his farm.

He was ploughing his field, when he first heard the news of the battle of Lexington in 1775. With characteristic promptitude, he unyoked his oxen, left his plough standing in the furrow, and without changing his dress, repaired to Cambridge, riding one hundred miles in a single day.

At the battle of Bunker Hill he evinced his usual courage. It was he who ordered the Americans to reserve their fire, until they could see the white of the enemy's eyes. They did so ; and the execution was terrible.

In many of the important revolutionary struggles, he was bold, adroit, and active. An instance of his skill in management occurred at Princeton, New Jersey. One of the wounded British officers wished to have a friend come and assist in making his will. Putnam was perplexed. He had but fifty men under his command, and was very unwilling to have his weakness known in the British camp ; yet he was still more reluctant to refuse the

dying man so reasonable a request. He therefore sent a flag of truce, and directed the officer to be brought in the night. In the evening, lights were placed at the college windows, and in every vacant house throughout the town. The English officer was deceived by these appearances, and reported on his return, that General Putnam's army could not consist of less than four, or five thousand men.

A singular instance of his brevity and despatch in military transactions is recorded. A tory lieutenant by the name of Palmer was detected in the American camp. Governor Tryon claimed him as a British officer; and threatened vengeance, if he was not given up. Gen. Putnam wrote the following pithy reply.

“Sir,—Nathan Palmer, a lieutenant in the king's service, was taken in my camp as a spy—he was condemned as a spy—and he shall be hanged as a spy.”

“P. S. Afternoon. He is hanged.”

After the loss of Fort Montgomery, Washington determined to build another fortification; and he directed Putnam to fix upon the spot. The praise of having chosen West Point,

therefore belongs to him. The campaign of 1779, which was principally spent in strengthening the works at that place, closed General Putnam's military career. His vigor was impaired by a paralytic affection; and he passed the remainder of his days in retirement—retaining his relish for enjoyment, his love of pleasantries, his strength of memory and all his intellectual faculties. He died at Brooklyn, Con. Nov. 29, 1860, aged seventy two years.

COLUMBUS.

Christopher Columbus was born at Genoa, in the year 1447. He studied sometime at Pavia, and became well versed in geometry, astronomy, cosmography, history, and philosophy. At the age of fourteen, he entered on a sea-faring life.

At Lisbon, he married the daughter of Pe-restrello, an old seaman, who had been engaged in the discovery of Porto Santo and Madeira. From the journals and charts of this old gentleman, he derived great entertainment. The Portuguese were, at this time, endeavoring to find a way to India round Africa. They had been fifty years pursuing this object; but had advanced no farther along the coast of Africa, than just to cross the equator, when Columbus formed his great design of finding India in the west.

As early as 1474, he had written his ideas to Paul Foscanelli, a learned Physician of Florence, who encouraged his design. The stories, which mariners told, of carved wood,

covered canoes, and human bodies of a singular complexion, found after westerly winds had prevailed tended to confirm Columbus in the opinion that there were undiscovered lands in the west. He was, however, universally laughed at, as foolish and visionary. The plan was first proposed to John II. of Portugal ; but that king had been at such vast expense in trying to find an African way to India that he refused to assist in this new enterprise. He, however, privately gave orders to a ship bound to Cape de Verd, to attempt discoveries in the west ; but the navigators failed through ignorance, and want of enterprise,—and on their return, they turned the whole project into ridicule.

Columbus, filled with indignation at the king's dishonorable conduct, quitted Portugal and repaired to Ferdinand king of Spain. He had previously sent his brother Bartholomew to England, to solicit the patronage of Henry VII. ; but his brother was taken by pirates, and detained in captivity several years.

In Spain, the learned men objected to the scheme Columbus had proposed—and brought forward reasons, which at the present day ap-

pear truly ridiculous. One was, that as the earth was a globe, to come back to the east after having gone down the west, would be like climbing a high hill, which no vessel could do, with the strongest wind that ever blew.

After much ridicule and opposition, Queen Isabella was induced to listen to his request. After having twice sent him from court, she recalled him, and offered to pawn her jewels to defray the necessary expense of an equipment, amounting to no more than two thousand five hundred crowns. The money was, however, advanced by Santangal, an officer of the king's household.

He sailed from Palos, in Spain, August 3d, 1592. On the 14th of September, the magnetic needle was observed to vary from the pole-star. This frightened the sailors prodigiously. Columbus by plausible reasoning, managed to quit their fears; but, after having been twenty days at sea, without sight of land, they became very discontented; and finally, began to talk about throwing their commander into the ocean.

Columbus sometimes feared he should be obliged to abandon his enterprise altogether ; but at last, a light was discovered in the distance, and the day after, being the 12th of October, one of the Bahama islands became distinctly visible. Thus, in the forty-fifth year of his age, he effected a project, which he had in view for twenty years.

At sunrise, the boats were manned, and the adventurers rowed toward the island, with music and martial pomp. The coast was covered with people, who were filled with the utmost astonishment, and thought the gods had come to live among them.

Columbus was the first to step on shore ! He was followed by his men, who kneeling down, and kissing the sod, with tears of joy and gratitude, returned thanks for such a successful termination to their voyage.

Columbus called this island San Salvador. He soon after discovered several others ; among which were Cuba and Hispaniola. After establishing a colony of thirty-nine men at the latter place, he made arrangements to return ; and sailed from thence January 4th, 1493. This voyage proved a hazardous one ; and

being threatened with destruction by a violent storm, Columbus wrote an account of his discoveries on parchment, which he wrapped in a piece of oiled cloth, and enclosed in a cake of wax. This he threw into the sea, in hopes it would be driven on shore, should he himself be lost. Fortunately, however, he was saved from destruction, and arrived at Lisbon, in safety, on the 4th of March. On the fifteenth, he reached Palos, where he was received with the highest honors by the king and queen, and created Admiral of Spain.

The pope granted full right to Ferdinand and Isabella, of all the land from pole to pole, beyond a line drawn one hundred leagues west of the Azores; and their catholic majesties made the office of viceroy and governor of the Indies hereditary in the family of Columbus.

This enterprising man made a second voyage to the new world, September 25th, 1493. When he arrived at Hispaniola, not one of the colony he had left there remained. The Indians, indignant at the rapacity with which they had seized provisions from them, had cut them off entirely.

Columbus landed at another part of the island, where he built a fort and established a town, which he called Isabella. This was the first town founded by Europeans in the New World. In may, 1494, this enterprising navigator discovered Jamaica, where he found water and other refreshments for his men, of which they had great need. On his return to Hispaniola, the September following, he found his brother Bartholomew, whom he had not seen for thirteen years, and whom he supposed to be dead. His brother brought supplies from Spain, which were greatly needed. The Spaniards had become very licentious, and the enraged Indians threatened to destroy them entirely.

In the year 1495, Columbus was obliged to enter into a war with the natives; and with two hundred men, twenty horses, and as many dogs, he defeated an army of Indians, estimated at one hundred thousand.

But in the midst of his deserved success, this brave, enterprising, and honorable man, became a victim to the malice of his enemies. The haughty Spaniards could not endure to see a foreigner raised to such high honours.

They excited Ferdinand's jealousy against him, by representing him as cruel, ambitious, and unprincipled.

The important services he had rendered were forgotten, amid the clamour, of those who hated him for a greatness they could not imitate ; and in October, 1500, he was loaded with irons, and sent home as a prisoner. The Captain of the vessel struck with the dignified manner with which he endured his injuries, offered to strike off his fetters, as soon as they were out of sight of the island. Columbus indignantly rejected his friendly offer. "Sir, I thank you," said he ; "but these chains are the reward my king has given me for serving him as faithfully as I could have served my God—and as such, I will carry them with me to my grave."

After his return to Spain, he vindicated his conduct, and brought satisfactory proofs of the malevolence of his enemies.

The king appeared satisfied, and promised to recall Bovadilla, his greatest enemy ; but he did not restore to Columbus the government he had unjustly taken from him,—and

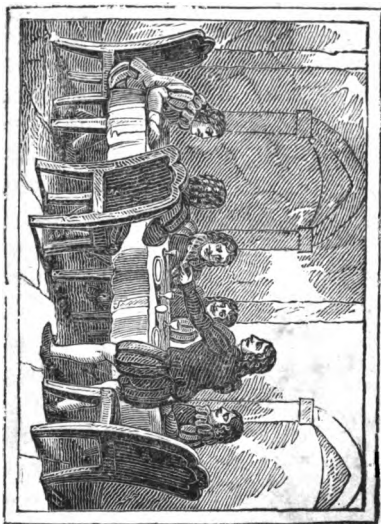
Ovando, his bitter enemy, was soon after appointed Governor of Hispaniola.

Notwithstanding these discouragements, Columbus continued intent upon finding a western passage to the Indies. He sailed from Cadiz, in May, 1502 ; but when he arrived off Hispaniola, Ovando refused him admission to the Port. After losing some of his ships, and experiencing great difficulty, while trying to find a passage to the great sea beyond the continent, he was obliged to put into Jamaica, to keep his two remaining ships from sinking. From this place, he sent information of his deplorable situation to Hispaniola, imploring relief ; but Ovando, governed by a mean jealousy, was willing his enemy should perish. Troubles increased every day. The sailors threatened to take his life for bringing them into such trouble ; and the natives, vexed at the long residence of the Spaniards among them, refused to bring them food. In this dilemma, Columbus resorted to an ingenious method for relief. He knew that a total eclipse of the moon was near. On the day before it took place, he assembled the principal Indians, and told them the Great Spirit

was angry with them, for their treatment to the white men ; and that as a sign of it, the moon would be obscured that very night. As soon as the terrified natives saw the darkness in reality commence, they brought provisions in great quantities, and ever after treated the Spaniards with the utmost respect.

At length, one of his friends, hearing of his unpleasant situation purchased a vessel, and took him from the island,

In September, he returned to Spain, accompanied by his brother and son ; and after a hazardous voyage, reached the port of St. Lucas in safety. He found Isabella dead, and his solicitations at court disregarded. The nobility were disposed to undervalue his services, and to consider them rather the effect of accident, than of any well concerted schemes. Columbus being once reproached in this way, at a dinner party, called for an egg, and asked them to set it upright on its smaller end. When they declared it impossible, he flattened the shell, by striking it gently on the table, till it stood upright. The company all exclaimed, "Any body might have done it!" "Yes," replied Columbus,



“if any one had thought of it ; so might any one have discovered the Indies if they had thought of it.”

After spending a year in fruitless attempts to persuade his sovereign to keep the promises he had made him, he died at Valladolid, May 20th, 1506, in the 59th year of his age. He was buried magnificently in the cathedral at Seville, with this inscription upon his tomb :

“ A Castilla y a Leon,
Nuevo mundo dio Colon.”

That is,

“ Columbus gave a New World
To Castile and Leon.”

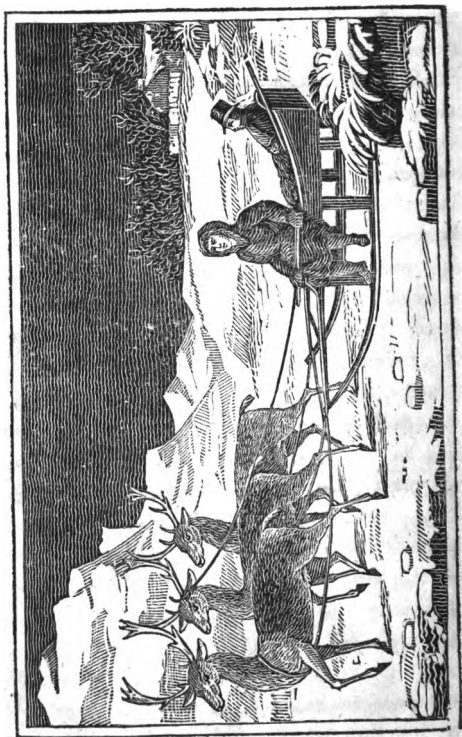
In compliance with his own request, his body was removed from Seville to Hispaniola, and deposited with the chains he had worn, in a brass coffin, at the right hand of the high altar, in the Cathedral of St. Domingo. They remained there, till that island was ceded to France, in 1795. His descendants then requested that his remains might be removed to Cuba. In January, 1796, the ashes of this great man, and the chains, which commemorated his sovereign's ingratitude, were carried down to the harbor in procession, under fire

of the forts. The brig, in which they were placed, arrived safely at Havanna, and the remains of America's Discoverer, were buried with all possible pomp and ceremony.

JOHN LEDYARD.

FEW men have done so much in a short life as John Ledyard. When he was a mere boy, he built a canoe with his own hands, and descended Connecticut River, alone and unassisted. He enlisted as a soldier, at Gibraltar, and afterwards, in the humble character of corporal of the marines, he sailed round the world with the celebrated Captain Cook. After his return to England, he formed the bold design of traversing the northern parts of Europe and Asia, crossing Bhering's Straits, and examining the whole of North America, from east to west. Sir Joseph Banks, famous for his generosity to men of enterprise, furnished him with money for the undertaking. He expended nearly all of it in purchasing sea stores, and these, most unluckily were all seized by a custom-house officer, on account of some articles which the English law forbade to be exported. Poor Ledyard was now left in utter poverty ; but he was a resolute man, and he would not be discouraged. With only ten

guineas in his purse, he attempted to walk over the greater part of three continents ! He walked through Denmark and Sweden, and attempted to cross the great Gulf of Bothnia, on his way to Siberia ; but when he reached the middle of that inland sea, he found the water was not frozen, and he was obliged to foot it back to Stockholm. He then travelled round the head of the gulf, and descended to St. Petersburgh. Here he was soon discovered to be a man of talents and activity, and though he was without money and absolutely destitute of stockings and shoes, he was treated with great attention. The Portuguese ambassador invited him to dine, and was so much pleased with him, that he used his influence to obtain him a free passage in the government waggons, then going to Irkutsk, in Siberia, at the command of the Empress Katharine. He went from this place to Yakutz, and there awaited the opening of Spring, full of the animating hope of soon completing his wearisome journey. But misfortunes seemed to follow him wherever he went. The empress could not believe that any man in his senses was travelling through



the ice and snows of uncivilized Siberia, merely for the sake of seeing the country, the people, &c. She imagined that he was an English Spy, sent there merely for the purpose of prying into the state of her empire and her government. She therefore employed two Russian soldiers to seize him, and convey him out of her dominions. Taken, he knew not why—obliged to go off, without his clothes, his money, or his papers—he was seated in one of the strange looking sledges used in those northern deserts, and carried through Tartary and White Russia to the frontiers of Poland. Covered with dirty rags, worn out with hardships, sick almost unto death, without friends and without money, he begged his way to Conningsburgh, in Prussia.

In this hour of deep distress, he found a person willing to take his draft for five guineas on the Royal Society of England. With this assistance he arrived in the land of our forefathers. He immediately applied to his ever ready friend, Sir Joseph Banks, for employment. Sir Joseph, knowing that nothing suited him better than perilous adventures, told him that a company had just been formed, for the pur-

pose of penetrating into the interior of Africa, and discovering the source of the river Niger, Burning sands, savage negroes, venomous serpents, all the frightful animals of the torrid zone, could not alarm the intrepid soul of Ledyard. He immediately expressed his desire to go. When the map was spread before him, and his dangerous journey pointed out, he promptly exclaimed, "I will go to-morrow morning." The gentleman smiled at his eagerness, and gladly entrusted him with an expedition in which suffering and peril were certain, and success extremely doubtful. He left London on the 30th of June, 1788, and arrived in Grand Cairo on the 19th of August. There he spent his time to great advantage, in searching for, and decyphering the various wonders of that ancient, and once learned land. His letters from Egypt were delightful. They showed much enthusiasm, united with the most patient and laborious exertion. The company formed great hopes concerning his discoveries in Senaar, and awaited letters from that country with much anxiety. But, alas, he never reached there. He was seized with a violent illness at Cairo ; died ; and

was decently buried beside the English, who had ended their days in that celebrated city.

We should never read accounts of great, or good men without learning some profitable lesson. If we cannot like Ledyard, defend Gibraltar; sail round the world with Captain Cook; project trading voyages to the North West coast; study Egyptian Hieroglyphics; and traverse the dreary northern zone, on foot; we can, at least, learn from him the important lesson of perseverance. The boy who perseveringly pores over a hard lesson, and who will not give up an intricate problem, until he has studied it out, forms a habit, which, in after life, will make him a great man; and he who resolutely struggles against his own indolence, violent temper, or any other bad propensity, will most assuredly be a good one.

SIR BENJAMIN WEST.

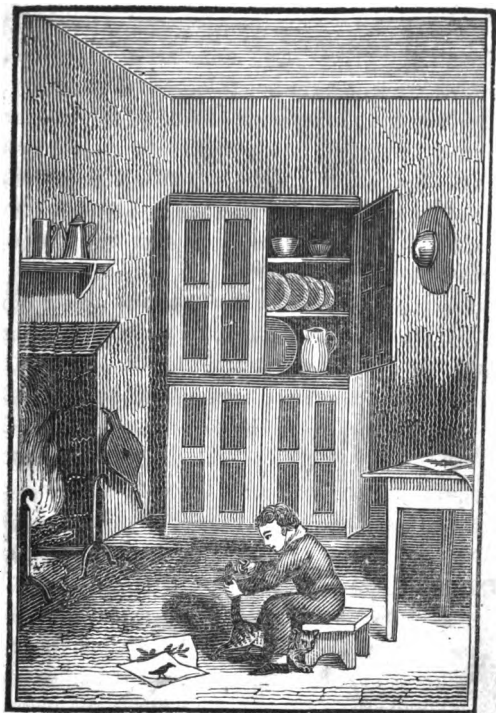
Sir Benjamin West, the celebrated painter, was the son of a quaker, who lived in Chester county, Pennsylvania. When he was only seven years old, he, in a singular manner evinced his extraordinary talent for painting. A married sister came with her babe to spend a few days at his father's. One day, Mrs. West asked her to go out and look at some flowers in the garden ; at the same time telling little Benjamin to take the fan and keep the flies from the cradle, in which the babe was sleeping. The infant was dreaming some happy dream, and smiled very sweetly. Benjamin thought he had never seen any thing half so pretty. He seized a pen and paper, and with some red and black ink, which stood upon the table, he attempted to sketch a portrait of his little niece. When his mother and sister came in from the garden he hastily thrust it into his pocket, lest they should be angry with him for wasting the paper ; but Mrs. West noticing he was confused about

something, insisted upon seeing what he had done.

On looking at it, she exclaimed, "I declare he has made a likeness of little Sally;" and kissed him with much affection. This kiss united with his father's praises, encouraged the young artist to go on in his favorite pursuit; and he amused himself with taking sketches of almost all the birds and flowers he saw. Pen and ink were the only materials he had, until a party of Indians made a visit to the town, in which his father resided, and saw some of the drawings. They were very much pleased with these sketches, and offered to teach him how to prepare the red and yellow colors, with which they painted their ornaments. To these his mother added some indigo; and he was thus provided with three primary colors. His kind friends the Indians, taught him to be very expert with his bow and arrow; and when young West saw a bird, whose plumage he thought would look well painted, he would be sure to bring it down with a shot. Some neighbors, who were very much pleased with his paintings regretted that he had no hair-pencils; and described to

him how they were made. This new want made our young artist very uneasy; but after thinking a while upon the subject, a lucky idea came into his brain. He seized his mother's favorite black cat, and very kindly and cautiously cut the tapering fur from her tail. This he fastened into a quill, and thus provided himself with his first paint-brush.

About a year afterward a cousin in Philadelphia, sent him a box of colors, with brushes and six engravings. This was a treasure indeed; and pussy was never afterward robbed of her fur. He had never seen any engravings before. And the sight of them made him half crazy with joy. Every moment of daylight he could find, he stole to the garret to copy these pictures; and he is said to have succeeded most wonderfully. The gentleman who had supplied him with paints, was so much pleased with the excellent use he had made of them, that he urged his father to allow him to visit Philadelphia. Mr. West, pleased with the industry and ingenuity of his son, consented. Here our little hero saw much that was new and delightful. The beautiful streets, and the vessels anchored in



the smooth, majestic river, made his head giddy with joy. Here too, he became acquainted with a painter, who encouraged him in his career, and charged his cousin to assist him—assuring him that he was certainly no common boy. He painted a picturesque landscape, for the cousin who had been so kind to him. This was more admired than anything he had done before. His extreme youth, and his wonderful talents, procured him many friends. Books were lent him to read, and pictures to copy in every direction. His improvement was rapid ; and on his return home, his parents could not but remark the altered style of his conversation and manners.

I have not room to detail the various steps in his progress toward that high degree of perfection which he afterward attained.

A few years after his first visit to Philadelphia, he established himself in that city, as a portrait painter. His success was great, even beyond the sanguine expectation of his friends. As his fame increased, his desire to visit Europe, grew more and more intense. His own industry, united with the liberality of some

Philadelphia gentlemen, soon supplied him with the means. He visited Italy, that country so justly celebrated for all that is lovely and majestic in the fine arts. The first portrait which he painted here was exhibited to a crowded company, who all supposed it came from the hand of a distinguished Italian artist; and Mr. West had the pleasure of hearing his picture most lavishly praised, even under those circumstances—but when it was discovered to be the production of the young American, the enthusiastic Italians could hardly contain their admiration.

The career of Mr. West, was long, honorable and happy. He spent the greater part of his life in England; and was, for many years President of the Royal Academy, in London. He retained his love for America to the day of his death; and he always evinced the deepest interest in those of his young countrymen, who went to England to obtain instruction from him. To the city of Philadelphia he was peculiarly attached; and several magnificent pictures which he gave to their public institutions, are proofs how greatly he remembered their liberality to him in early

life. Thus we see, that by industry, ingenuity and perseverance, a little quaker boy painting birds with brushes made from a black cat's tail, became an artist of first rate eminence—admired and respected by the nobility of London, Paris and Rome—and most proudly and gratefully remembered by his native country.

WILLIAM PENN.

This good, and justly celebrated man, was born in London, in the year 1644. When he was fifteen years old he entered the University of Oxford, as gentleman commoner. Quick intelligence and lively imagination would unquestionably have given him high rank as a scholar, had he been influenced by any of those ambitious motives, which generally excite men to exertion; but soon after he entered college, he became so much interested in the doctrine of the Quakers, that he placed a low value on all the wealth and honours the world could offer him. He, and a few of his companions, attended their preaching constantly. The Government were offended at this, and fined them for non-conformity to the Church of England; but nothing could turn them back from the path they had chosen. When Charles the Second ordered the surplice again to be worn at Oxford, according to the custom of ancient times, the

young quakers were so much offended at "the vain pomp," as they termed it, that they seized upon all those students, who obeyed the king's command, and tore their surplices in pieces. This was so flagrant an outrage upon public order, that Penn and his associates were immediately expelled. Admiral Sir William Penn, his father, was vexed and grieved at this disgraceful occurrence ; and when the young man returned home he treated him with much coldness. He had formed many ambitious projects for this favorite son ; and it is not surprising that he was disappointed and distressed when he saw him determined to avoid the great and fashionable, and associate only with a serious, and very peculiar sect. Sir William was a good hearted, generous man, but a very passionate one ; and when he found remonstrances were vain, he first flogged his son, and afterwards turned him out of doors. Mrs. Penn's entreaties induced him to forgive all past offences ; and, after recalling William he sent him to Paris, in hopes that a residence in that gay city would render him less rigid in his religious opinions. But in France he sought and found serious

companions—and though his manners became more animated and courtier like, he returned to England with the same simple pious mind. His father saw with much concern, that his aversion to fashionable company constantly increased. He sent him to Ireland, with letters to the Duke of Ormond, then Lord Lieutenant of that country ; in hopes, that the gaiety, wit, and splendor of his court, would transform his sedate son into a graceful man of the world ; but the pure minded youth grew more and more disgusted with the heartlessness, and the vicious tastes which he saw every where around him. Thus disappointed in his expectations the Admiral, as a last resort resolved to send him to the county of Cork, to superintend a large landed property. Here he thought he would be removed from any thing like Quaker influence ; but he was mistaken. The same preacher, who had attracted his attention, while at Oxford, chanced to preach at Cork, upon the text, “ There is a faith which overcomes the world, and there is a faith which is overcome by the world.” It was an impressive sermon, and William Penn applied it all to his own state of mind. Hitherto he had

merely been disposed to view the opinions of the Quakers in a favorable light ; but now he resolved publickly to take upon himself their name. The news soon reached his father,—who, in great anger, ordered him immediately to return to England. Their meeting was an unpleasant, and affecting one. The father anxious for the prosperity of a highly gifted child, was enraged at what he considered an absurd superstition; and the son affectionately attached to his father was grieved at such worldly minded wisdom. Admiral Penn respected his son's firmness, though he regretted the cause in which it was displayed. After a long and earnest conversation, he promised never to trouble him again, upon the subject of religion, provided he would consent to take off his hat, in the presence of the king, and of the Duke of York. It was a peculiarity of the Quakers, that all tokens of respect were due only to God,—and for that reason, they kept their heads covered, except in hours of prayer. William Penn was conscientious in this custom—and he well knew that it weakened the power of conscience to act contrary to its dictates, even in the most minute particulars.

Accordingly after a long struggle, he could not show to royalty and nobility that reverence which he considered as due only to the Almighty. The Admiral, wearied out with what he termed unpardonable obstinacy, again turned him from his house and left him to his fate. His mother, and a few kind friends, secretly administered to his wants, and preserved him from the utter poverty which threatened him. From this time, he began to preach and to publish books in defence of his opinions. He was often called into court, harshly treated, and imprisoned ; but no hardships could compel him to renounce his faith, which he sincerely believed to be right. He was mild and forgiving to his enemies, yet firm in his resistance to all their encroachments upon his liberty of conscience. His father, thinking he was unwarrantably abused, began to relent towards him. Finally William Penn had the happiness to receive a parent's forgiveness, and to hear him declare on his death bed, that his son had wisely chosen "that good part, which could not be taken away from him." The death of Admiral Penn, left him in the possession of considerable wealth, and he

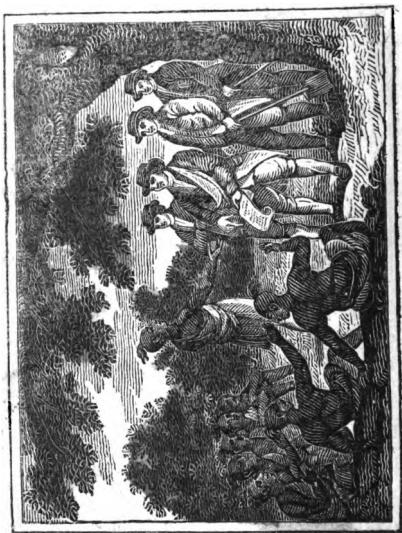
soon after married a young lady as remarkable for her beauty as her virtues. For many years nothing happened to interrupt his personal happiness, except the death of a mother, to whom he was most devotedly attached ; but the persecution of the Quakers was a perpetual source of trouble. At length, he resolved to seek refuge for himself and friends in the wilderness of America. The crown owed his father a large amount for naval services ; and he resolved to petition for a payment of it, in land lying between New York and Maryland. The Duke of York owned the former, and Lord Baltimore the latter. They were afraid of encroachments from a new neighbor, and therefore opposed his request ; others were willing the petition should be granted merely because William Penn was a Quaker. However, Charles the Second not only gave him a grant of the land—but expressed his wish that it should be called Pennsylvania, in honor of Admiral Penn. Worldly distinctions were never sought by the excellent Quaker. He wished to call the province New Wales ; and when the king's request was signified to him, he very modestly asked permission to

call it Sylvania, without the Penn. The king however, persisted in his design of doing honor to the memory of a brave Admiral,—and the territory received the name which it still bears. Soon after this grant, William Penn came over to this country, and established a colony upon the most just, humane, and judicious principles, which ever actuated a legislator, and a Christian. To do right, and promote the happiness of others seemed to be the end and aim of his whole existence. He erected a city at the junction of the Schuylkill and the Delaware, and gave it the name of Philadelphia; from Greek words signifying “Brotherly-love;” and it well deserves the name,—for all sects and nations there found security and happiness. The streets of this city intersecting each other at right angles, betray the love of order, which characterized its founder—and give it a regularity of beauty universally admired. In his conduct to the Indians, William Penn displayed the same benevolence, the same inflexible justice which marked every action of his life. Although the king had given him Pennsylvania, he conceived he had no right to take it without paying

the native tribes what they esteemed its full value. He made a solemn treaty of perpetual friendship with them, at Shakamaxon, on the sight of which Kensington now stands. Under a large elm tree, at this place a concourse of Friends appeared with William Penn at their head. He wore no badge of distinction, save a plain, sky blue sash ; he held a roll of parchment, containing the confirmation of the treaty ; and various articles of merchandise intended as presents, were carried before him. As they approached, the head sachem put on a kind of chaplet, which resembled a small horn. This, according to Scripture language, was an emblem of kingly power among the primitive eastern nations. The moment it was resumed, the Indians threw down their bows and arrows, and seated themselves around their Chief, in the form of a half moon. An interpreter then announced to William Penn that the Nations were ready to hear him. His address was simple, and affectionate. He explained the treaty to them and assured them every word of it should be kept most solemnly. He told them that their rights and privileges should be as sacred in his eyes, as were those

of his own people ; and should disputes unhappily arise, he proposed they should be settled by twelve impartial people, half Indians, and half English. He said he would not call them children or brothers; for parents sometimes were too severe with their children, and brethren would sometimes differ ; neither would he compare his friendship to a chain; for the rain might rust it, or a fall break it in pieces ; but he would consider them as the same flesh and blood with the Christians. The red men then solemnly pledged themselves to live in love with William Penn and his children, so long as the sun and moon should endure. Both parties faithfully kept their word ; and the confidence of the Indians was so entirely won, that much as they have been abused by worthless white men, they will to this day, believe any person, who wears a straight coat, and broad brimmed hat. Voltaire, speaking of this famous treaty says, "It is the only treaty made with the Indians, not ratified by an oath ; and it is the only one that was never broken."

When people take a singular course and act in opposition to general opinion, however



sincere and excellent, their motives may be they cannot escape from enemies ; but it is fortunate for the world that there are men bold in the cause of goodness, and willing to endure reproach for their self denying virtues. Because William Penn wore his hat in the presence of superiors ; refused to take the name of God in the form of an oath, and maintained that every man should be at liberty to interpret the Bible according to the dictates of his own conscience,—he was called a papist, a jesuit, and a deist : but virtue has its own reward. The founder of Pennsylvania lived happy in the consciousness of doing extensive good ; and dying, he left behind him what he had modestly shunned during his lifetime,—a name which will be always honorably distinguished in the records of history.

REV. JOHN ELLIOT.

JOHN ELLIOT, commonly called the "Apostle of the Indians," was a remarkable instance of disinterested benevolence, founded upon a religious love of usefulness.

He was born in England, in 1604, and educated at the English University of Cambridge. He taught school for some time after leaving college. In 1631, he arrived in America ; and a year after was settled as a clergyman in Roxbury. He was not satisfied with doing his duty to his own people, so long as numerous tribes of Indians around him were ignorant of the consolations of the gospel. His first object was to learn the language of the Massachusetts tribes. For this purpose, he persuaded an old Indian to live in his family, and by conversing freely with him, he soon learned to speak it very well. He afterwards published an Indian grammar, which was affixed to some editions of the Bible, that he translated into the Massachusetts dialect. In October, 1646, he preached his first Missionary Sermon to an assembly of

Indians, at Nonantum, now called Newton. He encouraged them to ask questions, and listened to them in the spirit of kindness and patience. The ignorant creatures of course made a variety of strange inquiries. One wanted to know whether God could understand prayers offered up in the Indian tongue; and another asked how the English came to know so much more of God than they did,—since God was alike the father of all. Had the savages learned the spirit contained in the precepts of the blessed Jesus, they would have known that the heart, not the language, is regarded by the Almighty; and that humility and repentance need no interpretation, in whatever language they may be spoken. When they asked the second question, they did not consider that the Englishman's God and the Great Spirit of the wilderness, whom they had worshipped for centuries, was one and the same Being; and that He had watched with a Father's love over the wigwam of the Indian, as well as over the dwellings of the white man.

Some inquired why sea-water was salt, and river-water fresh; and others, if the water was

larger than the earth, why it did not overflow the earth. To all these and many other questions, the venerable apostle returned such answers as he thought would most tend to impress them with a conviction of the wisdom and goodness of their Maker. He willingly resigned the comforts of civilized life, for the sake of their improvement in religion and good morals. He partook their coarse food, and slept amid the fiercest of them, on the cold floor of their wigwams. Sometimes the Indian priests threatened to kill him, if he persisted in staying among them, to teach the Englishman's faith; but he had as much courage as he had fortitude, and his reply constantly was, "I am about the work of the great God, and he will take care of me."

He visited all the Indians in Massachusetts. The first church he established among them was at Natick, in 1660. He instructed many of the savages until they themselves were able to become preachers; and before he died, he had the satisfaction of seeing twenty four of these fellow labourers in the cause of religion. In 1661, he published a new testament in the Indian language, copies of which are still to

be found in the libraries of those who value antique books.

His influence over the Indians was truly astonishing ; and it is a striking proof of the power of Christian humility, enduring kindness, and disinterested zeal, over the sternest hearts, and most ignorant minds. During the bloody war with King Phillip, he was literally the shield of the English ; for infuriated as the Indians were, they always listened to him when he pleaded the cause of his brethren. What a pity it is that the white men had not all the same spirit as the apostle Elliot. We should not then have shuddered, while reading our history, at the frequent massacres, and inextinguishable hatred of our red brethren. Yet the venerable Elliot was as courageous and persevering as the most celebrated general who ever lived ; but he was bold only in the cause of truth, and persevering only where good was to be done.

Probably a man has never lived who had such a total disregard of himself. He was so lavish of his money, that his friends were obliged to keep it for him. Once, when his purse had been filled with the very moderate reward

of his missionary labors, a friend tied it up in numerous very hard knots, lest he should spend it all in acts of charity. Mr. Elliot took no notice of the circumstance, until he stopped at the house of an aged woman, who lived I believe, in Watertown ; but when he saw her poverty and heard her accounts of lingering illness, his purse was instantly drawn forth. For a long time he tried in vain to open it ; and finding it impossible, he put it into her hand, saying, "it is the will of Providence that you should have it all." He wrote many books relative to the Indians, in one of which he attempted to prove that they were the tribes of Israel, scattered over the western continent. This excellent man died May 20, 1690, after eighty-six years of almost incredible exertion and usefulness.



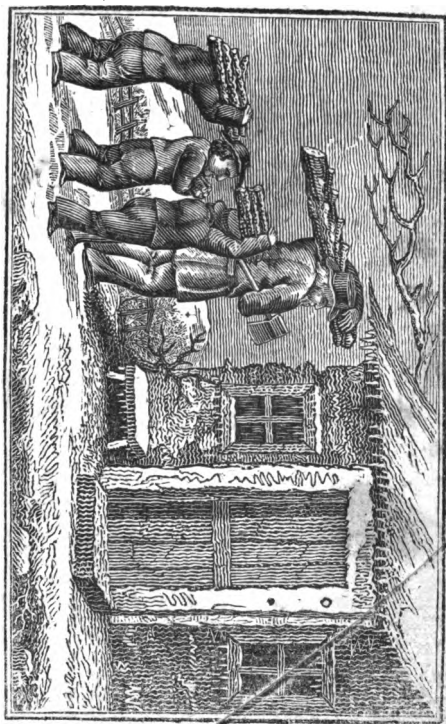
BARON DE KALB.

Every American boy, ten years old, should be made familiar with all the celebrated names connected with the history of his country. But I am afraid there were many, who during the terrible period of the revolution, poured forth money and blood, as freely as water, and yet are at this moment strangers to the memory of American boys. Every boy has heard of Lafayette—almost every body has seen him, and shaken hands with him—but has every one heard of the brave, the generous De Kalb? Lest they have not, I will inform them, that he was a German, who like Lafayette, left his country and his home, to fight for our liberty. He was in the winter of life, when he joined our army, but apparently as vigorous as he could have been in his earliest youth. His face and his figure were emphatically German. His frame large and athletic, his clear, mild blue eye, and his glowing, ruddy face, seemed to give the lie to his snow-white hairs, bleached by the suns and storms of sixty-three winters. He used

to boast of the iron constitutions, which industry and hardships gave his countrymen. "The Christmas before I sailed for America," said he, "I went to see my father, who lived about three hundred miles from Paris. On arriving at the house, I found my dear old mother, who was eighty three years of age, sitting at her wheel, while one of her great-grand-daughters carded the wool, and sang a hymn for her. As soon as the first joy of meeting was over, I eagerly enquired for my father. "Do not be uneasy, my son," said she. "He has gone into the woods, with his three great-grand-children, to cut some fuel for the fire. They will be here presently."

In a short time, I heard them coming. My father was foremost, with his axe under his arm, and a stout billet of wood on his shoulder.

The children followed him, staggering along each with his little load, and prattling with all their might. I assure you, it was delightful, thus to see the two extremes of youth and age mingled in cordial love. Nothing but exercise, and a plenty of the healthy air of heaven, will make constitutions wear like my father's.



William H. Hall

Barber

The histories of battles are very much alike and it is always painful to dwell on such scenes of bloodshed and distress ; I will therefore only say, that in every combat in which he was engaged, General De Kalb evinced the utmost bravery, discretion and military skill.

On the 15th of August, 1780, the American army were stationed near Rugeley's Mills, about twelve miles from Camden, North Carolina. Ten o'clock at night orders were given to march to Camden, and surprise the British army there. Unluckily, the English, at the same time, began a march to surprise the Americans. To their mutual astonishment the advance-guard of both armies met at two o'clock in the morning, and fired at each other. A council of war was immediately called. De Kalb, cautious as well as courageous, advised to fall back to Rugeley's Mills ; but General Gates overruled this motion.

The morning sun discovered the woods, far and near, reddened with the flame coloured uniform, worn by the British army ; and the rolling of their drums, and the thundering of

their cannon, as they came rushing to the battle, had a most awful sound. The undisciplined militia frightened at their numbers, scarcely gave them one distant fire, before they broke their ranks and fled in every direction. In vain De Kalb called upon them to return. He was left alone, with a handful of faithful Americans, to stand all the horrors of that fearful day. His valor increased with his danger. While he was bending forward to animate his troops, he received eleven wounds. He fell! and Americans and Britons continued furiously fighting over his body. His French aid, stretched his arms over the wounded veteran, and called out "Save the brave De Kalb, Oh save the Baron De Kalb!" The British immediately fell back; but it was too late to save his life. He died of his wounds and was buried near Camden where his last battle was fought.

Some years after, when Washington visited that place, he eagerly enquired for the grave of De Kalb. It was shown to him. He looked on it thoughtfully, for a long time, and then exclaimed, with a deep sigh, "So here lies the brave De Kalb! The generous stranger

who came from a foreign land, to fight our battles, and to water the tree of our liberty with his blood ! Would it had pleased Heaven, that he might have lived to share our prosperity as freely as he shared our dangers."

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